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Director

Public Notification:

Theft of Limited Client Information for affected DBH Clients

The County of San Bernardino, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), takes the privacy of our clients very seriously. DBH is providing this notification to inform the public of the theft of limited protected health information (PHI) for affected clients of DBH.

On January 12, 2013, a listing of DBH client information was stolen from the vehicle of a County of San Bernardino, Human Services (HS) employee. On January 11, 2013, DBH provided a list of its clients who are potentially eligible for benefits to the designated HS employee working with the Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) to determine eligibility. DBH referred client information to TAD as permitted by California law.

The HS employee's vehicle was broken into on January 12, 2013, and amongst the items stolen from the vehicle was the list of DBH clients. A police report was immediately filed with the Highland division of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Although the list contained minimal information (first name, last name, date of birth and DBH Medical Record number and indication services are received from a DBH clinic), DBH wanted to let the affected clients as well as the public know of the incident.

If you were personally affected by this theft and DBH has your current address, a letter will be sent to you informing you of the incident in the language you receive services. Should you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact DBH's Chief Compliance Officer at 800-398-9736 or 909-382-3083.

To prevent future incidents, DBH is educating its staff on methods to further safeguard the protected health information (PHI) of its clients. We are also working with HS to improve privacy and security practices for out-stationed staff.

DBH recommends the affected DBH clients review their explanation of benefits statement to look for any changes. Information about medical privacy rights can be located at the website of the California Office of Privacy Protection at www.privacy.ca.gov.